

IRC News

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BHM – I HAVE A DREAM EXPLAINED TO YOUTH

The IRC welcomed twelve guests from an English training institution 'Event Academy' on February 4, 2010 for an immersion program consisting in a debate on Martin Luther King's speech '*I Have a Dream*' and a guided tour of the IRC. The PAO Sita Liane Chakrawarti welcomed the participants and invited them to watch the film on King's popular speech which served as a topic of a live discussion in the framework of the African American History Month celebration. The PAO challenged the participants to freely express their understanding of the speech and its results. They were

delighted with the program and admired not only the form, structure, and rhetoric of the speech but also its content which still conveys an up-to-date universal message. It came out of the discussion that although Martin Luther King passed away forty-two years ago, his speech delivered in 1963 during the historic March on Washington is still compelling the struggle for freedom. They concurred that one of the tangible results is the presidency of Barack Obama, the first African American to be elected at the highest position of the American society. During the IRC guided

tour, the participants were pleased to discover the quality online and print resources available for patron use. They applied for membership and connected to the IRC Facebook.. PAS distributed to each participant a copy of the speech and the IIP publication '*Free at Last.*'



The Rotating Library reaches Sikensi

On February 16, 2010, a delegation from PAS led by the PAO Sita Liane Chakrawarti traveled to Sikensi in southern Cote d'Ivoire to implement the rotating library initiative designed to support disadvantaged inland school libraries. The program consisted in lending 270 books and a computer to schools in Sikensi and neighborhoods for a period of three months renewable. The activity began with a ceremony introducing the rotating library procedures and regulations, and a conference based on the NH book '*Femmes remarquables. Au Coeur de la revolution americaine*' delivered by the PAO. The audience included more than a hundred and twenty primary and secondary school students, teachers, headmasters as well as the regional educational authorities. The rotating Library collection included books in French and English that cover a variety of topics, namely world history and cultures, biographies of American celebrities, children's rights, significant children's classic literature, environmental issues, etc... In order to bridge the technological gap and provide equality of access to information resources, the project also supplied a computer and CD-ROMs. The purpose is to maximize success in supporting the school learning environment. According to the recipients, they were deeply moved and honored to benefit from such a treasure that will serve not only the students but also the teachers. PAS distributed a hundred copies of the IIP E-journal '*American Teenagers*' that the participants highly appreciated. The activity met the MSP goals of promoting education, building youth leadership capacities, and reinforcing mutual understanding.

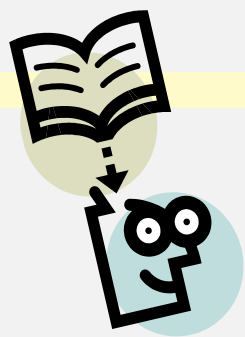


Book of the Month: 'SAISIS TA CHANCE'

PAS Abidjan organized a conference based on the French version of the Nouveaux Horizons book '*Saisie ta chance! De stagiaire à PD : le guide hip hop pour réussir en entreprise*' from Kevin Liles. The program held on February 25, 2010 attracted about one hundred and twenty participants composed of teachers and students, Hip-Hop musicians, NGO leaders, young entrepreneurs, the civil society, and journalists. The panel included Mrs. Melanie Kouassi, a Jurist, Mrs. Nina Toyo, the US Embassy Student Advisor, and Mr. Mathias Kouassi, a local Radio presenter and Hip-Hop musician. Stating that the book outlines Kevin Liles' journey from an unpaid internship to the top position of Def Jam Executive, the panelists outstandingly summed up the author's philosophy of success exposed through ten rules. These rules are summed up as follows: identifying your passion, being original, getting educated, planning, exercising humility and respect, taking up challenges, building positive relationships, being open, avoiding greed, and being flexible. The program was outstanding. The participants altogether acknowledged

that the book is a masterpiece and an inspirational career guidebook for the way to having a vocation and a life you love. They kept on pleading for PAS support to reach out young people in local schools through follow-up activities based on the book. Besides, many participants confessed that they used to have a stereotyped vision of Hip-Hop musicians as violent, poorly educated, and drug-addicted people. But this conference was an occasion for them to discover that Hip-Hop music advocates for moral values and hard work. Testimonies from two participants confirmed the effectiveness of PAS book programs and conferences. They said they are committed to take up the challenge by sharing and spreading out the message to a larger public outside the Embassy premises. The PAO in her closing words congratulated the audience for its receptivity and significant contributions to make the program a success. This activity met the MSP goals of promoting education, entrepreneurship, youth capacity building, economic and social development, and mutual understanding.





COMING SOON!!!

March 03 – 04 – The Rotating Library reached the South-West region of Cote d'Ivoire

March 10 – Cross Cultural Dialogue

March 11 – Immersion with ASEC

March 15 – 19 – IRC Trainees

March 18 – Book of the Month of March 'Femmes remarquables...'

March 19 – Outreach program with the University of Cocody

You are invited to share your comments and analysis either in English or in French on the IRC Facebook page. Just click on this icon.



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